

SCHOOLING

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33. MARBLES (BON-HMYIN).

long wooden slate blackened with soot and rice-water (*thum-bôn*). The Burmese word-building is exceedingly regular and in the main phonetic (See appendix B). Reading is acquired in one term, without much effort on the part of pupil or

teacher. The Burmans have a pure decimal notation in which the bugbears *eleven* and *twelve* are unrepresented. The Burmese *eleven* is literally "onety-one." Children can count up to hundreds before they come to school and can reckon up sums mentally. In arithmetic they are taught the multiplication-table and a few rules of thumb (*bedin*). In addition to the five Buddhist commandments (p. 16) and the objects of contemplation (p. 43), which the children learn in their homes, they chant passages from the Pāli scriptures in the school chorus and get other precepts by rote: such as the category of duties to parents, teachers and elders, *vis.*, reverence, support, mutual affection (*parit*). They are taught the value of learning as an inalienable possession, together with many precepts from the *Lawkanthi* and *Mingala-thôt*; the conquests of the inner and outer worlds *Atwin-aungdyl*, *Apyin-aungdyl*, the story of the Buddha (see *The Light of Asia*) and the legendary cosmogony.

As the result of this Buddhist system of schools, nearly half of the male and about 3 per cent. of the female population can read and write, as compared with 9 and 0.3 per cent. for men and women respectively in Bengal. The

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34. RACING TOY BOATS.